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THE FORECAST

A Popular Journal of Scientific Prediction

EDITED BY SEPHARIAL

Vol. I
No. 3

AUTUMN, 1906

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THE FORECAST

A Popular Journal of Scientific Prediction

Edited by SEPHARIAL

Notes of the Quarter

WITH this number of THE FORECAST I am making several changes which I feel sure will meet with the approval of my readers. Having withdrawn the advantage of a free test reading of the horoscope on account of the overwhelming number of cases submitted to me, I feel bound to make some amends to those who have not availed themselves of the Coupon and yet have become purchasers of the journal since May 31st, when the use of the Coupon was withdrawn. New subscribers should therefore note that a remittance of three shillings and sixpence will secure the first four numbers of THE FORECAST and a direct reply to any question which admits of no solution by ordinary canons of judgment. The Coupon in our first issue should be carried out in giving the data of birth.

As a further extension of this privilege, I am prepared to give a *free* Test to any of my subscribers who may send me the name and address of a new subscriber with a subscription of Two Shillings and Fourpence for one year of THE FORECAST. I think this may prove serviceable to those who are willing to extend the sale of our journal and at the same time would like some recognition of their services. At the same time I may say that I am open to suggestions of any nature calculated to render THE FORECAST of greater utility and interest to my readers in all parts of the world. On another page will be found an announcement of one such scheme for the benefit of FORECAST readers, and I hope there will be many who will avail themselves of the facilities offered for competent legal and medical advice.

In review of the events of the last Quarter, it will be seen that unquestionable evidence has been adduced to establish the predominant truth of Astrology as a science. Among the more striking of the predictions was one I made in connection with the horoscope of the Premier in the first issue of this journal,

*

where it was said that "there was room for a crisis in South Africa about the end of June." It would have been quite as easy to have made exactly that prediction ten years or twenty years ago, for the positions of the planets may be known, if necessary, hundreds of years in advance, and eclipses of the luminaries may also be calculated prospectively to within three minutes of their actual occurrence any number of years in advance. These things we owe to the patient labours of the astronomers Kepler and Tycho, who were also professed astrologers and had good and practical reasons for an intimate knowledge of the mechanism of the heavens.

The astrological reason for the crisis in South Africa, which gave Mr. Keir Hardie and others the opportunity of declaring that "every man's mother is better than mine," or something to the same effect, was that Mars and Neptune then formed their conjunction in the sign Cancer in opposition to Uranus. The conjunction of Mars and Neptune takes place once every two years, but Uranus only forms the opposition aspect to Neptune once in one hundred and seventy-nine years, so that this triple combination becomes of considerable interest and is calculated to set in motion causes which will have far-reaching effect and more than historical value. Our legislators have begun by casting aspersions upon the Natal Government and criticizing the methods of warfare pursued by its forces in the field, and they proceed to countenance a special Commissioner who has the effrontery to tell Britons in British South Africa concerning certain demands made by the Boers, that "These are the lowest terms to which the Boers will accede." If the British Lion is not dead it certainly wants rousing. He has been coddled out of all resemblance to his former self, and has become a sleek, smug, self-satisfied and peevish pet.

The position of Uranus in the sign Capricornus, thus affected by the opposition of Mars and Neptune, was of consequence to Egypt, which Claudius Ptolemy declared to be under the dominion of that sign of the zodiac. Murder and sedition have already made their marks as the direct result of Mussulman instigation, and presently the fellaheen may become universally disaffected and a religious war may throw back the tide of British progress and vitiate every effort which has been made for the betterment of the native populace and the opening up of wider industries and new enterprises from which they could not fail to reap a rich harvest. Everywhere the Egyptian can point

to progress and material improvement from British occupation of the country, everywhere he can discern the marks of desolation which have resulted from Turkish rule. But if the fiat went forth in the name of Allah that the Christian should not be suffered in the land, every British-trained and equipped native soldier would turn his hand against us. This is the danger we have to face while Uranus is in transit through the ruling sign of Egypt. Anciently the Goat was a sea-horse (Poseidon), and among the ancient Egyptians it was figured as a crocodile, the sacred reptile of the Nile waters. The Hebrews called the Egyptians *mizraim*, i. e. "the crocodiles." Claudius Ptolemy wrote in the second century, about 140 A.D.

Russia has opened upon the last scene of its political tragedy. Elsewhere I am giving some notes on the horoscope of the Tsar, which, according to the principles of Astrology, becomes for the time being the focal centre of planetary influence controlling the destinies of the nation. Two years ago I published a cartoon entitled "The Price of Freedom," wherein the people and the troops were in conflict, and in the foreground lay the mangled form of a Russian girl held by the talons of a ferocious eagle. Last year I issued a further cartoon entitled "King Demos reigns," wherein the Muscovite plebeian, fully armed, sits upon the throne with the emblems of sovereignty in his hands, his footstool being the skull of some grand duke from which the coronet has fallen. In December, 1905, there was a conjunction of the malefic planets Saturn and Mars in quadrature to Jupiter from the sign of the zodiac which rules Russia. Since then there has been an eclipse of the sun in the same sign, and in August, 1906, an eclipse of the moon. I will call the attention of my readers to an article, "Time Values in Eclipses," which may throw some light on this latter phenomenon, and incidentally may serve to correct false impressions which have gained currency among students.

Subscribers to THE FORECAST will have received a circular in common with many of my old clients, offering them the facility of operating on the marginal system in selected stocks and shares under what must be considered to be conditions of exceptional, if not unique, nature, with an absolute limit of responsibility and *pro rata* participation in profits. Those who have already responded to this invitation have already realized a profit of thirty per cent. on their investments, and I have perfect confidence that all who elect to follow their example on the

terms stated in my circular will benefit to an equal if not greater extent, in our next operation, entries for which close on August 31st. Those of my general readers who wish to join in this scheme should send their subscription of two shillings and fourpence to THE FORECAST, with application for my private circular.

I have the unenviable reputation of being somewhat of a "psychic," and time and time again it has been affirmed that conclusions and predictions to which I have given publicity have been derived by the use of psychic faculties. This is as much as to say that what I profess to arrive at by purely mathematical calculations, is due to clairvoyant perception. Were it advisable, I could adduce astronomical positions to account for every statement of a predictive character I have ever made, but it would not be correct to deny that on certain occasions and with regard to individual cases, in refining upon the general forecast thus derived, I have been enabled to give just the right pointing to a prediction by the exercise of a faculty which no mathematical laws can compass. Personally I am of opinion that the gross body of man has had its own way with the world too long. Every one is prating of physical culture, of dietetic reform and a hundred other fads which have respect only to the well-being and comfort of what is paradoxically referred to as "the inner man." It appears to have been forgotten that man is a soul possessed of a body, that he has powers of his own to cultivate and develop, and that the material body, apart from him, is nothing more or less than a brute beast. Psychic faculty, appertaining to the soul, is one thing, and astrology is quite another; and the two, while capable of being used conjointly with beneficial results, should not be confounded. Anciently this was understood.

For the benefit of those who are anxious to probe the domain of psychology in a practical manner, I have caused to be prepared a number of specially-constructed, black concave mirrors, similar to those in use among the Bedouins and the Prohitas of the temples of India. While lacking none of the essential qualities of the most sensitive and expensive articles, they have been put together in a form which makes it possible to sell them at a price within the reach of all. It is the peculiar property of these "Magic Mirrors," as they have been called, to receive, concentrate and reflect the magnetic emanations of living creatures, by means of which they induce a species of self-

hypnosis and temporary hyperæsthesia, in which abnormal condition the subject is, for the time being, a witness of all that is going on in the world of unrealized, or, as it is sometimes called, subconscious thought. The long-forgotten is recalled to memory, the future is focussed into reality as the experience of the moment, time and space limitations are obliterated, and for an interval which may be reckoned as moments or years, according to the psychological changes involved in the process, the seer becomes a conscious and scrutinous Eye, that and nothing more. With the exception of certain inorganic bodies used to heighten the sensitive and auropathic nature of the instrument, there is nothing mysterious in its construction. The mystery, if there be any, is in the soul of man which is capable of thus reflecting itself upon the brain. The Mirror is sold with instructions and recommended literature on the subject, and is now procurable at the office of THE FORECAST or can be ordered through any Occult Book store.

To John D. Rockefeller, Esq., Financier

An Open Letter

DEAR MR. ROCKEFELLER,

I HAVE heard it said that you are a very rich man, that your wealth is in fact fabulous. I wonder if, all told, it amounts to so much as can secure for you one hour of perfect peace? I doubt if you are the richest man who ever lived. There is wealth of sorts, and the most profitable is the most portable. Many a man who paid toll to Cæsar has taken away with him more than the world had taken count of; more, I fear, than you and I could muster between us, or ever shall take away. Be that as it may I commiserate with you.

You are very well hated, because very much feared, and "jealousy, the green-eyed monster that doth mock the meat it feeds on," has marked you down for a particular share of its spleen. You have been execrated even by your own countrymen, condemned by many the whole world over, and have received the genuine pity of not a few. No one has ever accused you of being robust and manly, nor is it on record that you ever did anything proportionate to your powers which should "count to you for righteousness." But, my dear sir, you early divined the fact that there is a good deal of cant and humbug in this little world of ours, and you have taken the world at its own valuation—very much to its surprise and discomfort.

The world sets a value on money and property, on shrewdness, business faculty, economy and thrift. You took your clutch with the rest, but unlike the rest, you have held on to it. You and I know, dear sir, that there is not one man in a million who would not be a millionaire if he could, if he only knew how. And in his own fancy, what a

benevolent fellow he would then be! Unfortunately for the world, the vast majority who have tried to become millionaire philanthropists have never evolved beyond the embryonic stage.

There is a good deal of feather and fluff about the average man. You have the core of steel, and that makes a difference. If you are rigid and unbending with others, you are at least consistent in ruling yourself with a rod of iron. Yet with all your shrewdness and all your rigour there is not a child living but has the advantage of you. Your commerce has been with men of the world, of childlike simplicity and tenderness you know but little. Yet in your way you have evolved, for you have something at least of self-conquest to your credit. "He is strong who conquers others. He who conquers himself is mighty!" No doubt you know the quotation.

I set out, however, to write of things of a more intimate nature. I do not find you in De Bret, nor in Whitaker, nor even in the American Almanack, yet you are a considerable person, and the fact that you were born on the 8th July, puts you into close stellar touch with such men as Joseph Chamberlain, Cecil Rhodes, and Julius Cæsar, who were also born in the early days of July. Not that this makes a great man of you, for there must have been scores of nonentities born on or about the same date as yourself, but you have the advantage of being born under Cardinal Signs, and with the majority of the planets rising and above the horizon. You are gifted with quite wonderful powers of organization, you can take the initiative and display considerable independence of character.

But you are by no means such an unsympathetic and deliberate person as you are generally depicted to be. You are capable of very acute feeling, and have more than ordinary power of adapting yourself to your environment. You have sufficient flexibility and versatility to guarantee that you will not miss many chances in life; and your definition of purpose, although remarkable, does not blind you to the possibilities of the passing moment. You have great mental perception, powers of application, concentration of thought and perspicacity.

You are attentive to detail. You understand the value of little things. You have foresight and range of perception which belongs only to the telescopic mind. You have perspective, the one quality which most men lack. This, and a faculty for weighing evidence, has contributed to your success in the world more, perhaps, than anything else. Your imagination is strong, and although not of the artistic and creative order, it is active enough to make you speculative. You have many secret sorrows and a depth of feeling for which you take no credit. At times you are nervous and apprehensive, which shows you to be imaginative, and trifling incidents will change your mood on the instant.

You have had unfortunate periods in your life, and perhaps the most recent was in May, 1901, when Uranus opposed your Moon and Saturn was in opposition to the Sun's place in your horoscope. However, when Jupiter passed over the Moon's place and Saturn formed the trine aspect to the Sun, you took a voyage to Europe and thoroughly enjoyed the first real

holiday you have allowed yourself for upwards of sixty years. A beneficent Providence sent you forth upon a trial trip. You have another and a longer voyage to take.

The Sun has now reached the twenty-first degree of the sign Virgo, while at your birth it was in the sixteenth degree of Cancer. In the Spring of 1907 Saturn will pass over the opposition of Virgo 21° , and this will be in the nature of a preliminary warning. Your health will need more than ordinary attention. You appear to suffer from chronic nervous irritability of the stomach, and your kidneys are also badly affected, the result of continuous high nervous tension. At the close of 1907 Saturn will retrograde over the twenty-first degree of Virgo. This will sound a second note of warning, and the preceding months of July and September will have produced some sharp attacks of gastritis. During the latter part of 1907 Neptune will be transitting the place of the Sun at your birth and there will be unmistakable signs of organic changes taking place, accompanied by lack of vitality and waste of tissue. It is further to be observed that there is an annular eclipse of the Sun close to your birthday in the same year.

When, therefore, Uranus forms the opposition to your Sun and the place of the eclipse in the Spring of 1908, you may confidently prepare for the long journey to which I have referred.

Wishing you "*bon voyage*" and a happy haven,

I am, dear sir,

Your sincere well-wisher,
SEPHARIAL.

The Kabala of the Houses and Signs

TO those who have made no study of symbology the elements of astrology must remain a profound kabala. The pictorial figures of the zodiac are hieroglyphic representations of human attributes, and the whole circle of the zodiac is nothing less than a concise history, and moreover a prophecy, of the evolution of humanity through the ages. As applied to the individual in the horoscope of his birth, the signs severally represent dominant characteristics, which on the larger scale of racial evolution, are symbolical of the Spirit of the Age. The Platonic or Great Year of 25,920 years, is the period in which, by the precession of the Equinoxes, the Solar System appears to traverse the circle of the zodiac.

Almost all the mythical creatures and monsters of ancient legendary existence have their origin in the zodiacal combinations thus effected by the apparent overlapping of the signs of the zodiac and the constellations which bear the same names, and which are subject to a retrograde motion on account of this precession. One of the most familiar forms thus evolved is the Sphinx, which is compounded of the Fixed or Foundation Signs of the zodiac, Taurus (The Bull) Leo (the Lion), Scorpio (its antiscion being Aquila, the Eagle), and Aquarius (the Human water-bearer). In the Assyrian sphinx the marks of this constitution are more remarkable than in the

Egyptian form of the same creature. It is, however, an universal monument, and if we may take the orientation of the signs as any guide in the matter, we are safe in estimating its antiquity to be not less than 3,600 years, nor more than 5,760, for these figures would cover the period since the limits of the constellation Taurus occupied the vernal equinox, Scorpio the autumnal equinox, and Leo and Aquarius the solstices. The combination of the four signs in one figure stands therefore for a complete revolution of the equinoxes, which takes place in The Great Year above referred to.

Similar combinations of the sign positions are found in Hercules and Hydra, St. George and the Dragon, Oannes, the Man-Fish, the figures of Pan and the Satyrs, and even the Mermaid, for sometimes these figures are taken by opposition and sometimes by conjunction of the sign positions involved.

But if we turn to the zodiacal figures themselves, taking them in their natural order and according to their original forms, we shall find that they are at the root of all astrological interpretations concerning the character, environment and destiny of man. In order to appreciate this fact, it will be necessary to observe that the twelve Signs are divided into four groups, which are called Elemental Groups or Trigrams, corresponding to the four anciently conceived states of matter: Fire, Air, Water and Earth. Thus Aries, Leo and

Sagittarius belong to the Fiery Trigon ; Taurus, Virgo and Capricornus to the Earthy ; Gemini, Libra and Aquarius to the Airy ; and Cancer, Scorpio and Pisces to the Watery Trigons respectively. And in order to derive these in a

sequence according to their natural order in the zodiac corresponding also with the order of the Elements, it will be necessary to begin with the sign Leo, the foundation sign which denotes Spirit Essence. The scale then works out as follows :

ELEMENT	FIXED	FLEXED	MUTABLE	
Fire (Spirit)	Leo	Sagittarius	Aries	Noumenal
Air (Mind)	Aquarius	Gemini	Libra	
Water (Soul)	Scorpio	Pisces	Cancer	Phenomenal
Earth (Body)	Taurus	Virgo	Capricornus	

The Prime Vertical, or zenith-circle of the local heaven, is divided into twelve equal sections called "Houses," and each of these is found to be related to one of the signs of the zodiac. Hence arise the various significations attaching to the "Houses" and the planets which may occupy them in the horoscope of birth.

The Houses I have further divided into four groups to correspond with the elements to which they are related. These are, The Individual, Possessive, Relative and Terminal groups of Houses. They follow exactly the same classification as the elements and signs as above indicated in the table. Thus the twelve signs, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, etc., are ranged in their order through the twelve divisions of the prime vertical, and the Individual Houses are those which contain the Fiery signs ; the Possessive are those which hold the Earthy signs ; the Relative, those coinciding with the Aërial signs, and the Terminal are those occupied by the Watery signs. The following correspondences are then seen to exist :

The First House, Aries, denotes the Person (*persona*, a mask) in which the Individual manifests externally. The Fifth House, Leo, denotes the Soul, with all its appetites and passions, the forces animating and vitalizing the body, the law of procreation, progeny, the Individual in reflex. The Ninth House, Sagittarius, the spiritual nature, teleological subjects, religion, philosophy, dreams, visions, etc., the telepathic faculty whereby the Individual is related to the supramundane or spiritual world of ideas.

The Second House, Taurus, the personal possessions and worldly wealth of the subject, his goods and chattels and estate movable. The Sixth House, Virgo, relative possessions, *e.g.* food and clothing, servants, attendants, etc., relative to the comfort and well-being. Hence Hygiene, physical culture, the industries. The Tenth House, Capricornus, the position, honour and credit of the Subject, his spiritual possessions, and the end of his labours.

The Third House, Gemini, relative to the person, as brothers, sis-

ters, and others in degrees of consanguinity. The Seventh House, Libra, psychic affinities, the wife or husband, conjugality. The Eleventh House, Aquarius, the friends, advocates, supporters and patrons of the Subject, confraternity.

The Fourth House, Cancer, the end of the personality, the grave, real estate and place of residence. The Eighth House, Scorpio, Death, the sundering of body and soul, resolution, introversion. The Twelfth House, Pisces, the terminal of the cycle of necessity, the soul in bondage, prison, asylum, exile, privation.

In tracing through these signs, and bearing in mind the significance thus attained in association with the Houses, it will be obvious that many of the hieroglyphs are derived directly from those natural objects which, in ancient times, stood to humanity in the relations suggested. Thus Taurus denotes wealth, as allied to the Second House or celestial division, and "much cattle" commonly had the like significance among the nomadic patriarchs of the race. Gemini, again, is an obvious glyph for the relationship of consanguinity, but only by an extension of the root idea of personal relationship or physical *rapproch* can we derive telegraph, letter-post, bridges, and other means of nexus between persons and things naturally sundered. They belong to the larger experience of the modern professed

astrologer. Cancer stands for the ocean, a symbol of matter, and is synonymous with the Scarabæus, the tortoise and the turtle, which in ancient cosmogenesis are seen to underly and support all forms of life. Hence Cancer and the Fourth House have the significance of maternity and signify the Mother. Virgo was anciently Ceres, and is modernly represented as a maiden holding some ears of corn in one hand and a sickle in the other. Hence food, the handmaid, and ultimately hygiene. Libra, the balance, stands for any contract or measure of equity, and apart from the circumstance that wives were anciently bought and sold, this sign stands for the ultimate equation of the person brought about under the laws of natural polarity, wherein the equality of the sexes may be prophetically discerned, "measure for measure" naturally following upon "the taming of the shrew!" Scorpio stands for Serpentarius, the symbol of resolution, and of death, which is again life; the symbol used by Moses as antidote to snake-bite, as in the Caduceus of Hermes and the rod of Æsculapius. Indeed to thoroughly exhaust the kabalism of the zodiac, would be to recite the mythologies of the whole world, and would serve to complicate rather than elucidate the general correspondence which I have here briefly suggested to exist between the signs of the zodiac and the divisions of the horoscope.

Studies in Brief

QUEEN VICTORIA OF SPAIN

PRINCESS VICTORIA EUGÉNIE OF BATTENBERG, whose marriage to King Alfonso of Spain was accompanied by such tragic events, was born on the 24th October, 1887, when Saturn was in opposition to the Moon and the Sun within six degrees of the quadrature of Saturn. This application of the luminary to the evil aspect of both Moon and Saturn is significant of the fact that in her alliance with the King of Spain, the young Queen is undertaking more responsibility than usually falls to English royal wives, and a far greater burden of care than can have been dreamed of in the happy romance of the past year. As early as May, 1910, Saturn will transit the opposition of the Sun at the time of birth, passing the same point in December of the same year, and again in February, 1911, and the whole of this period from June, 1910, to March, 1911, will be fraught with adversities which should be strange to so young and charming a queen. But a jealous Fate still pursues, and in the following year, 1912, Saturn passes over the place to which the Sun will have progressed, bringing into play the powerful influence of the Sun's direction to the opposition of Neptune. This coincides with the direction of the Sun in the King's horoscope to the square aspect of Mars, and the transit of Saturn over the place of the Sun at his birth. It is sad indeed to see such indications thus early in the career which but recently seemed so full of hope and promise.

But this must be because the fate of man
Hath ordered to each soul its earthly doom,
While Heaven doth weave upon the wider plan,
With human souls as threads within the loom !

THE POLITICAL OUTLOOK

THE total eclipse of the Moon in the afternoon of the 4th August will bring serious troubles on Russia during the ensuing Quarter, and about the 14th to 18th seismic disturbances may be expected to ensue from this phenomenon. France will reflect the conditions in Russia and public feeling will find forceful expression, the ferment and heat of popular opinion reaching a dangerous point about the 18th of August. This state of affairs appears to range through the month, and in September, towards the end of the first week, there are again signs of panic, and violent proceedings may be the natural result.

Early in September a cloud settles over the Ottoman Government, and a state of agitation and unrest affects the subjects of the Sultan. These conditions obtain throughout October, but threaten an acute stage

about the end of September. In this month also the stationary position of Uranus in Capricornus will cause sudden developments in Egypt. The month, will, however, bring a period of renewed prosperity in South African affairs and we may witness the opening out of many new and beneficial enterprises.

During October there will be a revival of Brazilian interests in financial circles and an extended period of prosperity will be enjoyed by that country.

The chief centres of political interest during the Quarter will be Russia, France, Turkey, Egypt, and British South Africa.

THE WEATHER

IN close agreement with my prognostics the month of June drew to its end under conditions of quite a remarkable character. Violent earthquake shocks were experienced in the West of England and in Wales during the morning of the 27th June, the disturbances covering an area of 20,000 square miles. The centre of the earthquake appears to have been in South Wales, shocks being felt as far north as Shrewsbury, eastward as far as Birmingham, and southward at Ilfracombe, Tavistock and Lundy Isle. In Berlin at the same time a great darkness followed by terrific thunderstorms were experienced, houses were flooded and men and animals killed. In London the rainfall in the twenty-four hours measured 2·19 inches to 2·27 inches, and throughout the provinces extraordinary scenes of flood and devastation were witnessed. It will thus be seen what exceptional effects were produced from the rare combination of planets which took place during the last week in June. The following are my forecasts for the ensuing Quarter:—

SEPTEMBER—Heavy storms will be experienced about the 5th of the month, rainfall and electric phenomena being severe. About the 14th a distinct fall in temperature, with cold, raw and misty mornings and nights. Channel fogs. Rising winds near the 24th, followed by sudden changes and violent storms about the 27th and 28th. An unsettled and stormy month on the whole.

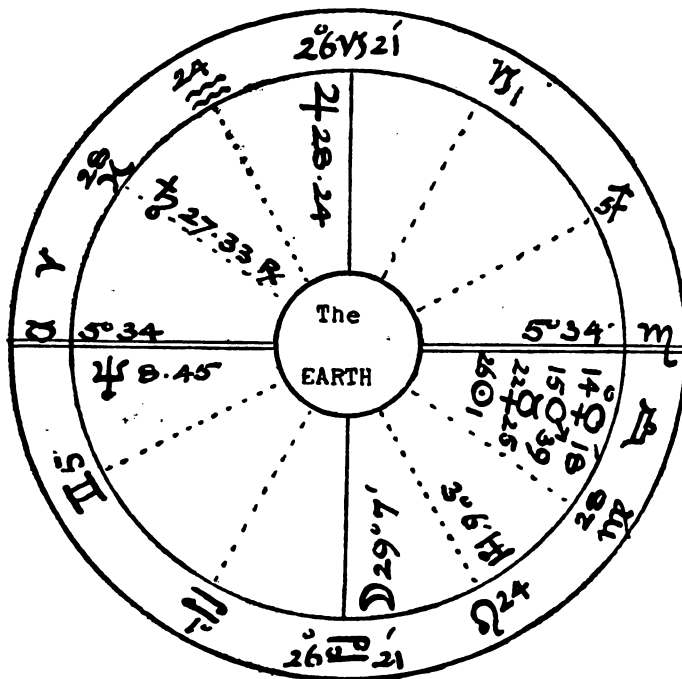
OCTOBER—Opens with local storms. A fine spell with rise of temperature between the 3rd and 7th. Then some showers on the 8th and 9th. Fine at the end of second week, then much cooler with heavy skies between 17th and 22nd. Concluding days much colder. First fortnight mild, second cold and wintry.

NOVEMBER—Opens with thunderstorms on the 2nd or 3rd, followed by mild and genial weather. Storms on the 8th, probably hail. Then much colder until the 16th, when a rise of temperature brings thunder. A humid heat maintained till after the 21st. 27th heavy rains. End of month, windy, cold and overcast.

A FOLLOWER OF ZARADUSTHA

NOWHERE in the world is Astrology held in higher esteem than among the cultured and scientific minds of India, and in order to interest my readers in that part of the globe, I have thought fit to present the horoscope of a notable scion of a foremost Parsee family, Mr. C. D. Limji of Bombay.

Bombay, October 19, 1878. 6h. 2m. p.m.



This gentleman evidently has a career before him, for Jupiter, the great benefic planet, reigns supreme in the horoscope of birth. He is also destined to inherit very largely, for Jupiter has the benefic aspect of Saturn. He is sure to have large estates contiguous to the sea, for the Moon, in good aspect to Saturn, holds the lower angle of the horoscope, and the longer he possesses this property, the more valuable it will become. His tastes are artistic, Venus being in its own sign Libra, associated with Mars and Mercury. The large majority of planets are in cardinal signs, which denotes a progressive and ambitious character, power to cut out a line in life for himself and to make headway against difficulties. The critical faculty is very acute, for Mars and Mercury are conjoined in the sign Libra, and beyond the fact that he has an excellent sense of value, his judgment in matters of equity would be sound and dependable.

Mr. Limji is a graduate in Arts and also in Law, and shortly will be qualifying for Attorney-at-Law. The presence of so many planets in the sign Libra constitutes his fitness for legal work, but he would, in my opinion, have made an even more capable trader. The Moon in Cancer and angular disposes to the cultivation of a fine speculative and creative imagination, while the rising of Neptune gives a degree of mental sensibility which is of the kind usually described as telepathic and mediumistic. He is subject to very correct impressions concerning the course of future events, and has an intellectual apprehension and introspective faculty which should greatly aid him in his career. Being in trine aspect to Uranus, this position of Neptune will induce to the study of occult and mystical subjects, and possibly it would be hard to find a horoscope in which the practical and mystical are more closely allied or more forcibly represented.

The Sun has now attained the 24th degree of the sign Scorpio, and during the next few years will be forming the trine of Saturn, the sextile of Jupiter and the trine of the Moon in the horoscope of birth. Consequently Mr. Limji may be expected to go forward from one success to another during the next eight years. It must not be overlooked, however, that Saturn's transit of the Ascendant early in 1911 and the simultaneous transit of Uranus over the Midheaven of the horoscope, will seriously affect both health and fortune for a while. The years 1912 and 1913 are rendered dangerous to the health by the transit of Saturn over the opposition of the Sun's progressive place. Finally, in 1914 there is a transit of Neptune over the place of the Moon at birth, and as this is accompanied by the direction of Sun to the quadrature of Uranus, there will be a serious bereavement and loss over property by fraud. Marriage appears to be postponed to thirty-six years of age and covers a period of ten years, during which a son and two daughters will be born to him. About the 59th year of his life elements of physical danger are discerned, and the constitution, which is rather lacking in co-ordination, will be disposed to break up. In view of the uncertainty of human life it behoves us to rejoice and make good the day of our prosperity, and in the hour of misfortune to consider the evanescent nature of all earthly advantages. Sooner or later we all must pay toll to Nature, and if in the final making up of our account it shall be found that there stands to our credit the right use of only one of our faculties, it will suffice to serve us as passport to a world of wider opportunity and more perfect achievement.

SEPHARIAL.

Destiny and Free-will

SINCE the publication of THE FORECAST I have received many letters from demurrers taking exception to the doctrine of Astrology on the ground that it is subversive of human free-will and to that extent liable to undermine the *morale* and courage of a believer. An answer seems necessary, and I trust that in offering one to my correspondents I shall not be dosing *ad nauseam* many others of my readers who have patiently and thoughtfully threshed out this question of Destiny and Free-will to their satisfaction.

At the outset, it appears that either the doctrine of Pre-established Harmony, which infers an inevitable working out of individual destiny in terms of a pre-conceived plan of human evolution, is false, or that our notions concerning individual free-will are fictitious. Bailey in his *Festus* has it that "Free-will is man's necessity in play," and a right understanding of the laws which conduce to this "necessity" of human action is the legitimate domain of all science and philosophy.

Let it be admitted, for the moment, that there is such a thing as racial habit, that we submit to disease and death from force of habit, that even our methods of sustaining life by eating and drinking are solely from the force of example, and even sleep is a habit, and a very extravagant one too. This supposition is entailed upon us by the consideration that if only we could get rid of

hereditary tendency and habit, of hypnotic suggestion on the one hand and auto-suggestion on the other, we might be free agents. We might live wheresoever and as long soever as we chose, die only when we had exhausted the possibilities of earthly experience, resort to eating and drinking as occasional luxuries of existence, and otherwise conduct ourselves as masters of the physical body and all its functions. This is the Advance Thought position, which unfortunately is in conflict with astrological principles. The fact that we are incapable of these things, have never been capable of them, and probably are never intended to be so, may not be sufficient answer. Yet it would seem that man's chance of survival in this universe of contending forces depends more on his power of adaptability to environment than upon any theoretical conquest of the conditions into which he is born and which continually surround him in life. Moreover, it appears to me strange that what is called "racial habit" should consistently assert itself just at those times in a man's life when he is found to be astrologically under specific planetary influences; and after all it does not matter one iota in this argument whether the planets directly affect us by emanations of their own, or indirectly, by stimulating in us the cell-memory which is responsible for the results hypothetically recognized as "racial habit." But what have the Advance Thought advocates to say regarding a high

wind which brings a tile off a roof, or of the tile which strikes a passenger on his head, thereby causing his death? It will be difficult, surely, to find trace of racial habit in either wind or tile! Perhaps our troglodyte ancestors were at fault in associating a whole head with the joys of existence. In clubbing one another to death, the dying was a foolish and super-erogatory act. They started a "habit" of the most fatal character and imposed it upon their progeny! So that, whatever we may say concerning the planets in their courses, it is obvious that habits are stronger than human wills, and are moreover in deadly league with destiny.

But to be serious, it never has been argued that Free-will in man is of indefinite range and efficacy. Bailey's definition is scientifically accurate if we consider the individual unit of consciousness as an atom having a play-space, or as Prof. Crookes calls it, a "mean free path of vibration," while remaining subject to the general laws governing the body of which it is an integral part. The play-space due to the individual, will thus differ according to its constitution and potentiality, its ensouled activities corresponding in this sense to the ensphered electrons whose activities are responsible for the potential of the elastic envelope or "atom" which contains them. If there were no interdependence between force and form, and no interaction between the mind of man and his body, then indeed it could be said with some truth that the planets do not exert a reflex influence on the mind, disposing, though not compelling, towards a certain disposition and character and thus to definite modes of action.

Thackeray has seized upon the root idea, which reaches very far down into human history, in the precise statement: "Sow an act and reap a habit; sow a habit and reap a character; sow a character and reap a destiny." For character and environment, taken together, constitute the whole destiny of man. Both character and environment may undergo extensive changes in the course of time, but those changes will always be found to be in terms of the complementary factor, changes of character being induced by environment and changes of environment correspondingly induced by character. To claim that a man can forego his own nature, appetites and inclinations, forsake his line of evolution, and wholly ignoring his environment, can choose for himself a new course in life at any time, is as absurd as to affirm that the earth can at any given moment forsake its orbit and wander wherever it lists in the limitless regions of space; whereas we know, to the contrary, that the earth is such as it is by reason of its evolution, that it holds a position in the solar system agreeable to its nature and determined thereby, and that it is held in its orbit by the constant interplay of forces exerted at all times by every particle of matter constituting the mass of the several bodies of the solar system.

There is only one logical outcome to this theological conception of free-will in man as commonly taught, and that is chaos. The thorough examination of this question of fate *versus* free-will, can only be made when certain premisses are established, as for example, the single or composite nature of our being; the origin of consciousness and the centre of its action; the

identity or difference of mind and organic matter; the pre-existence of the human soul, or its existence as a by-product of organic life. But it will presently serve our purpose to conclude that, within a certain radius known as "the sphere of influence" of the individual, every unit of force, and hence every composite body, has a power and operation which may rightly be called its own. The measure of this sphere of influence is in direct ratio to inherent psychic activity. Very confidently, however, do we affirm that no man can materially alter his destiny until he has reconstructed his character, disposition, and appetites, which, in relation to his environment at any moment of time, will determine his choice. Sir F. Galton, in his *Enquiries into Human Faculty*, is very explicit as to the fact of Nature being stronger than Nurture, and therefore a more permanent and powerful factor in the determination of individual destiny than accidental relations, which can never radically alter character. He says:

"I have no patience with the hypothesis occasionally expressed, and often implied, that babies are born pretty much alike, and that the sole agencies

in creating differences between boy and boy, and man and man, are steady application and moral effort. It is in the most unqualified manner that I object to pretensions of natural equality. The experience of the nursery, the school, the university, and the professional careers are a chain of proofs to the contrary. I acknowledge freely the great power of education and social influences in developing the active powers of the mind, just as I acknowledge the effect of use in developing the muscles of a blacksmith's arm, and no further."

When therefore a man is honestly convinced of the facts of astrology and is a constant witness of the effects of planetary influence in human life, not alone in the development of character but also in the production of enviroing conditions in which character is required to express itself, he shares in the fullest possible manner the objection of Sir F. Galton to the mistaken notion of radical equality of faculty and function among individuals and the resulting delusion that human free-will is the only agency in the production of varieties of fortune and experience.

Time Values in Eclipses

SOMEHOW and at some remote period in the past it came to be accepted as one of the canons of Astrology that the dimensions of an eclipse bore some direct ratio to the duration of its influence on the earth. Thus it was taught, and I regret to say it is still repeated with parrot-like precision, that every hour the Sun is eclipsed will count a year, and every hour the Moon is eclipsed will count a month, during which the effects of the eclipse will be felt in those parts of the world where it is visible. There are two great errors involved. The fact that the Sun's apparent motion in the zodiac constitutes our annual time-measure, and that of the Moon our mensual time-measure, is probably at the root of the fallacy concerning the duration of effects, and the fact that seismic and other disturbances usually follow immediately upon the ecliptic conjunction of the luminaries in parts where it is central at noon, may account for the tradition that these are the only parts of the world liable to be affected by the phenomenon. Both conclusions are wrong, theoretically and empirically. Eclipses happen with a regularity which was anciently observed among astronomers in China, India and Persia. Many ancient eclipses are historical landmarks. In every year there are always two eclipses and there may be as many as five. Approximately they are divided into two sets with an interval of six months between them. In eighteen years and about ten days the same eclipses recur, but in a different part of the zodiac and at different times of the day or night. In 649 years they are repeated in the same order and in the same part of the zodiac, but at a different time of the day or night.

When therefore we come to consider what results from this ancient notion of the duration of eclipse effects, we shall conclude that as there are at least two eclipses in each year with a six-months interval, the effects of one eclipse will scarcely have begun before those of the next succeeding eclipse begin to take effect, and consequently there will be a continual overlapping of influences in such manner as never wholly to leave the earth free from the blighting effects of one or the other of the obscured luminaries. And when, further, we consider that an eclipse of the Sun may last for three hours more or less from beginning to end of the total phase, and an eclipse of the Moon for over five hours, it is obvious that according to the ancient time-measure the effects may range from one month to six months for lunar eclipses and from one month to three years for solar eclipses. But because of the proportionate mass of the moon in relation to its distance from the earth being greater than that of the sun, it is seen that tidal and other gravitational effects are in greater proportion due to the moon's action on the earth. Consequently we might reasonably expect to find that the effects of lunar eclipses are more striking and durable than those of the sun. This is the case so far as modern experience enables us to judge,

and it must be remembered that we have much greater facilities for ascertaining results in various parts of the world than ever the ancients possessed.

As to the effects of eclipses being limited to that area of the earth where the phenomena are visible, this is altogether subversive of the principles of astrology and cannot be sustained by any appeal to facts. If eclipses are allowed to have any influence at all upon sublunary nature, it must be that they influence us in terms of the *Sign* and *House* in which they fall, following in this respect the principle which holds in regard to planetary action in human life. Granted also that the influence of eclipses in general is privative, obscuring, and noxious, it will depend entirely on the position of an eclipse in the individual horoscope as to how each person will be affected and in what specific manner he will interpret in his own life the general indications of adversity in the horoscope of his nation or country.

As to the time when these effects will be experienced, or rather, when they may be expected to reach their climax, this will depend entirely on the horizontal angle of the eclipsed luminary at the moment of ecliptic conjunction; for every two hours from the last rising or setting of the luminary will count one month from the time of eclipse to the time when the effects will eventuate. Hence every eclipse must strike within a period of six or seven months.

Lastly, as to the duration of effects there can be no empirical rule: for it is obvious that should an eclipse occasion a war, or a famine, the duration of effects must be considerable, whereas should an earthquake be determined, or the death of a ruler, or other similar catastrophe of a sharp and sudden nature, the direct results might be compassed by a few moments or minutes of time, and yet have the most far-reaching influence.

In the case of the Lunar eclipse of August 4th, which fell in the ruling sign of Russia, the moment of ecliptic conjunction was 3h. 1m. p.m. at St. Petersburg, and the moon set on the horizon of the Capital at about 3.35 in the morning. Consequently it will be just under six months from August 4th, 1906, namely in January, 1907, that the influence of this eclipse will be brought to a climax. But before that date comes round there will be several important transits of the planets over the opposition of the moon's place at eclipse, notably that of Mars on August 13th and the conjunction of Mars and Mercury on the September 4th, which falls on the place of Mercury at the time of this eclipse. These transits will bring into effect some of the more striking premonitory symptoms of the crisis to which Russia is fast approaching, and elsewhere will occasion earthquake shocks, conflagrations, and violent storms, and in the political world many disputes and some danger of resort to measures of force.

Phenomena Interpreted

ON the evening of the 24th July last soon after sunset I beheld one of the most beautiful sights my eyes have rested on for years past. In the western sky, at an altitude of about 30 degrees, the newly formed crescent of the moon stood in a field of that "pale green light that lingers in the west," clear-cut, radiant and beautiful ; and immediately beneath its southern limb the brilliant planet Venus shone in all its glory. It was a wonderful conspiracy of symbol and scene and conveyed its own meaning, astrological and natural, in the atmosphere of perfect peace that pervaded it.

The phenomena taking place during the months of September, October and November are rather numerous and very important.

SEPTEMBER.—On the 5th of this month there will be an opposition of the Sun to Saturn and at the same time a conjunction of Mars with the planet Mercury. The former of these will be decidedly adverse to the interests of Turkey and that country will speedily show signs of renewed unrest.

The conjunction of Mars with Mercury in the sign Leo indicates a turbulent period for France, and as the conjunction takes place exactly on the position of Mercury at the Lunar Eclipse of the 4th August, it will stir up the full effects of that eclipse (see "Time Values in Eclipses"). Earthquakes will be numerous and destructive, and fires extensive and devastating. On the 13th the opposition of Mercury to Saturn will further reduce the fortunes of the Sultan of Turkey. Saturn in opposition to Mars on the 28th will bring matters to a crisis in the Ottoman Empire, and very grievous will be the state of affairs in the Sultan's territory.

OCTOBER.—The phenomena are not of a striking character and effects will be continuous of influences in force during the preceding month.

NOVEMBER.—The planet Uranus forms its quadrature to Mars on the 8th, an aspect which will bring a sharp crisis in the Argentina Republic, while the square of Mars to Jupiter on the 16th will be followed by heated discussions regarding administrative affairs in South Africa. Party feeling will run high in the Transvaal.

I look to Turkey, South Africa, Holland, and the Argentine to supply us with some items of political interest during the quarter under survey, and to France and Russia to supply an unusual degree of tension in both the political and financial worlds.

Market Forecasts

Stock and Share Market

UNDER this head I have hitherto given a concise statement of the probable trend of the markets month by month, in all cases giving dates when the stocks and shares cited would be likely to rise or fall in value. In the majority of statements I have been notably in touch with the actual state of the market. In Consols, Home and American Rails, and Kaffirs for June, my predictions were all adverse and in singular agreement with the facts. In the latter case the prediction really goes back to the month of February, when it was said (see Spring issue of THE FORECAST) that "there is room for a crisis in South Africa at the end of June." This was confirmed in the Market Forecasts for that month, "the conditions during the last fortnight verging on those of panic." In July the rise in Americans took place as predicted, but was continued beyond my anticipations at the close of the month. The recovery in the Kaffir Market was also correctly forecasted. These facts have been noted, and in order to meet the wishes of several of my correspondents whose opportunities for operating on the Stock and Share markets are limited by one circumstance or another, I have instituted an Investment Scheme with absolutely limited liability for small investors, and this has already met with ready recognition on the part of my readers, and, I am glad to say, with commensurate success from the point of view of participants. The following are my Forecasts for the next three months.

SEPTEMBER.—There are two important crises in the Stock Market this month, one between the 3rd and 7th and another between the 26th and 30th. Both these will affect Gilt Edged Stocks adversely, and will be due to political complications in which France and Turkey appeared to be involved respectively. Consols, while reflecting these conditions on the Bourse, will show some degree of steadiness during the middle of the month and should close for the first account without much, if any, depreciation. The condition of the Kaffir market is likely to afford some stay to Government Securities.

The general tone of the markets is only moderate for the month, and operations are likely to be restricted by the holiday season, so that adverse influences will not register to the same degree as they would do upon an active market. Consols will, however, close down for the month on the second account.

Home Rails show losses during the end of the first week, owing to political affairs affecting the money market generally. This will be continued till after the 8th when the market will respond to more

favourable reports, and after being firm about the 18th to 22nd, fluctuate to the 28th and then close with considerable losses on August values.

American Rails are at first uncertain and do not make much headway during the first week, but in the second week noticeable strength animates the market, and from the 8th onward to the 20th, there is little or nothing to prevent a straight bull run. At the end of the month there will be a slight reaction on profit-taking and bear covers.

Brazilians. These will begin to make some decided advance upon recent figures, and buying between the 10th and 20th should prove profitable.

Turks. These cedulas will fluctuate, owing no doubt to the course of affairs in Egypt, but on the month they will show a decline, the weakest points being about the 5th, 13th, and 27th of the month.

Kaffirs. I look for a steady advance in these shares, but the close of the month develops conditions which are adverse to buyers, and a sharp set-back will be registered.

Argentines. These stocks have recently shown a progressive tendency, and there is nothing to prevent a further advance during the earlier part of this month, but a sharp fall is certain to take place after the 24th, and bulls should close before that date.

Chinese Loans ought to advance well, but India Threes, Japs, and Egyptians will all be off the best at the close of the month.

OCTOBER.—The earlier part of the month will witness a further depreciation of Argentines, and advance in Cape Stock and Kaffirs, and a fall in Japs. After the midmonth account, Brazilians will begin to boom, and will be very active and firm for the whole month. Buyers should get in early for both accounts. Spanish Fours will suffer some depreciation about the end of the third week and on the month are below former settlement. Indias pick up at the close of the month, but Japs and Argentines are still not in vogue. I judge that among Internationals, Brazilians will be most on call.

Home Rails. These open steady to firm and on the month will show some disposition to advance, but chiefly at the beginning and end of the month.

American Rails. These have seen their best for a while, and will fluctuate on professional manipulations and speculative buying and selling, but there will be an absence of tone in the market and at the end of the third week prices will be depreciated. Unsteady to weak appears to be the prevailing condition.

Kaffirs. Despite an eminently satisfactory tone I look for some recessions during the first ten days, but especially between the 3rd and 8th of the month. Later, the general outlook and the firm tone prevailing will serve to appreciate most active shares.

NOVEMBER.—Brazilians continue to boom ahead, Spanish Fours are again marked down on the month, Argentines, Indias, Egyptians and Japs all show an early weakness, and the first of these, and the last mentioned, will be likely to form food for the bears. Cape Stock and Kaffirs will go ahead, as also will Chinese Loans. Indias and Egyptians

will recover and advance somewhat. The tone of the markets is particularly firm during the first week, falls off midmonth but finishes again strong.

Consols will advance considerably during the first week. Spanish Fours show some recovery and Brazilians advance well.

Home Rails will rise in sympathy with Government Securities during the first week, but after the 7th there will be a set back, and it is probable that a falling market will be experienced until the 20th, the indications being very weak during the middle of the month. A firmer tone marks the closing, when some levelling-up is likely to take place.

American Rails show considerable uncertainty and will fluctuate rather widely. Firmness affects the market about the end of the third week, and prices will rise all round. This is not sustained, however, for a further relapse on the 26th to 28th of the month, disposes to make a nervous and unsatisfactory finish. The last day will bring prices up a point.

Kaffirs show a strong tone, especially during the first week when prices will advance considerably. About the middle of the month there will be a relapse, and Home Markets will share the general depression. Nevertheless the general tone is good and, abnormal features being removed, mining shares will quickly recover any points they may lose.

NOTE.—Special Market Features with points for speculative Investors and precise dates for operating are supplied by Sepharial, at the rate of ten shillings per month. The Chart of any Stock or Share showing the progress and duration of any private or public Company is a recommended Investment feature.

More Test Cases

CHARACTER.—"My family consider this fairly correct. Serious bereavement and personal ill-health at 22—My grandmother died and I had scarlet fever. Disposition to contract rheumatic fever—Rheumatism is the one complaint I have been liable to. The year 1904 dangerous and unfortunate—A trying year to myself and family."—A. B——, St. Albans.

"Mrs. F—— is much obliged for delineation, finding it wonderfully accurate on most points. She only wishes she had known these truths in earlier life."—Mrs. F——, Reigate.

"I received the test to-day. The dates which you give at 19 and 23 years, and in August at 28 years of age, are quite true. I think the test most excellent, and am very pleased with same."—JOHN B——, Tunstall, Staffs.

Where Astrology Counts

IN CHILDHOOD.—We may learn by Astrology the natural predispositions, tastes, inclinations, and special aptitudes of children, and so early place them upon the road to success in life. Moreover, we may discern moral, mental, and physical weaknesses, and fortify them with natural remedies.

IN YOUTH.—Astrology is of considerable assistance in directing the earliest independent efforts of youth to profitable and laudable issues, and in defining the special studies to be followed as a necessary equipment for the profession or calling for which the individual is best suited. Also in warning of the early pitfalls and dangers to which inexperience is subject, and specifying the period most suitable for entering into marriage and other contracts.

IN MANHOOD.—All the issues of commercial, professional, and social life are capable of being considerably enhanced by the consideration of right time and right action. No life need be lived in vain. There is always an open door for every exigence. Thousands are struggling because they are on the wrong line of action. Thousands fail through untimely action. Astrology, in defining with scientific precision the line of least resistance and the specific times and seasons when efforts will be successfully directed to any particular purpose and end in view, may rightly claim to be an essential part of any true Science of Life. "Hitch your wagon to a star" is good advice if only it be the right one. A fighting man should not hitch on to Venus, or his uniform may smother him. Every man should know under what star he is born, and what is the power and measure of his work in the world.

IN OLD AGE.—There is ineffable consolation in having rightly fulfilled one's duty, completed one's task and earned the right to rest. But the sense of satisfaction is a thousand times greater to him who is conscious of having conspired in the working out of his destiny, of having fulfilled a definite and set purpose in life, and spent his forces in a sphere of activity where they have counted to his advantage and credit at every turn. To gain an independence by good fortune is not in the same category as to have gained it by conscious effort directed to a given and preconceived end. In the end, Astrology informs us when to set our house in order, and how and by what means the great purpose of life will be fulfilled in us.

PYTHAGORAS
AND HIS SYSTEM OF PHILOSOPHY
(*THE DELPHIC MYSTERIES*)

TRANSLATED FROM THE FRENCH OF

EDOUARD SCHURÉ

BY

FRED ROTHWELL, B.A.

“Know thyself, and thou wilt know the Universe and the Gods.”—*Inscription on the Temple of Delphi.*

Evolution is the law of Life,
Number is the law of the Universe,
Unity is the law of God.

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enemy. Cruel though instructive this lesson of history after those of science! What a picture of the animal nature let loose in man, culminating in this monster of despotism who tramples everything under foot, and, by his horrible apotheosis, imposes on humanity the reign of a most implacable destiny!

Cambyases had Pythagoras taken to Babylon, with a portion of the Egyptian priesthood, and kept him within the gates.¹ This colossal city, which Aristotle compares to a country surrounded by walls, offered at that time an immense field for observation. Ancient Babel, the great prostitute of the Hebrew prophets, was more than ever, after the Persian conquest, a pandemonium of nations, tongues, and religions, in whose midst Asiatic despotism raised aloft its dizzy tower. According to Persian tradition, its foundation dates back to the legendary Semiramis. She it is who was said to have constructed the monster *enceinte*, over fifty miles in circumference: the Imgur-Bel, its walls on which two chariots ran abreast, its superimposed terraces, massive palaces with polychrome reliefs, temples supported on stone elephants and surmounted by many-coloured dragons. There had followed in succession the series of despots who had

¹ Iamblichus relates this fact in his *Life of Pythagoras*.

brought into subjection Chaldea, Assyria, Persia, a part of Tartara, Judaea, Syria, and Asia Minor. Hither Nebuchadnezzar, the assassin of the magi, had led captive the Jewish people who continued to practise their religion in one corner of the immense city which would have contained London four times over. The Jews had even given the great king a powerful minister in the person of the prophet Daniel. With Balthazar, the son of Nebuchadnezzar, the walls of the old Babel had finally disappeared beneath the avenging hand of Cyrus, and Babylon passed for several centuries under Persian rule. By reason of this series of preceding events, at the time Pythagoras came there, there were three different religions side by side in the high priesthood of Babylon : the ancient Chaldean priests, the survivors of the Persian magi, and the *élite* of the Jewish captivity. The proof that these different priesthods were in mutual agreement, on the esoteric side, is found in the part played by Daniel who, whilst acknowledging the God of Moses, remained first minister under Nebuchadnezzar, Balthazar, and Cyrus.

Pythagoras was now obliged to enlarge his horizon, already so vast, by studying these doctrines and religions, the synthesis of which was still preserved by a few initiates. In Babylon he

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was able to thoroughly study the knowledge in the possession of the magi, the heirs of Zoroaster. Though the Egyptian priests alone possessed the universal keys of the sacred sciences, the Persian magi had the reputation of carrying farther the practice of certain arts. They claimed to control those occult powers of nature called pantomorphic fire and astral light. In their temples, it was said, darkness reigned in broad daylight, lamps were lit without human agency, the radiance of the Gods was visible and the rumble of thunder could be heard. The magi gave the name of *celestial lion* to this incorporeal fire, the agent that generates electricity, which they could condense or disperse at will, and that of *serpents* to the electric currents of the atmosphere and the magnetic currents of the earth, which they claimed to be able to direct like arrows against mankind. They had also made a special study of the suggestive, attractive, and creative power of the human word. To evoke spirits they employed graduated formulas, borrowed from the most ancient languages on earth. The following is the psychic reasoning they themselves gave thereof: "Make no change in the barbarous names employed in evocation; for they are the pantheistic names of God; they are magnetized with the worship of multitudes, and their power is

ineffable.”¹ These evocations, accompanied by prayer and purification, were, properly speaking, what was called at a later date, white magic.

Accordingly we now see Pythagoras in Babylon, penetrating the arcana of ancient magic. At the same time, in this den of despotism, he witnessed a glorious spectacle; on the ruins of the crumbling religions of the East, above their decimated and degenerate priesthood, a band of dauntless initiates, grouped together, were defending their science, their faith, and as well as they could, justice. Boldly facing the despots, like Daniel in the den of lions, ever prepared to be torn to pieces, they tamed and fascinated the wild beast of absolute power by their intellectual might, disputing, foot by foot, the ground they had won.

After his Egyptian and Chaldaean initiation, the child of Samos knew far more than his teachers of natural philosophy, far more than any Greek, either priest or laic, of his time. He was acquainted with the eternal principles of the universe and their application. Nature had opened up to him her secrets; the gross veils of matter had been torn from his eyes, enabling him to see the marvellous spheres of nature and spiritualized humanity. In the temples of Neith-Isis in Memphis, and Bel in

¹ *The Oracles of Zoroaster*, taken from the theurgy of Proclus.

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Babylon, he had learned many secrets as to the past history of religions, continents, and races. He had been able to compare the advantages with the disadvantages of the Jewish monotheism, the Greek polytheism, the Hindu trinitarianism, and the Persian dualism. He knew that all these religions were rays of one same truth, strained down through different degrees of intelligence and intended for different social conditions. He held the key, *i. e.* the synthesis of all these doctrines, in esoteric science. His vision, compassing the past and plunging into the future, was bound to judge the present with singular lucidity. His experience showed him humanity threatened with the most terrible evils, through the ignorance of the priests, the materialism of the savants, and the lack of discipline in the democracies. In the midst of this universal decay he saw Asiatic despotism increase; from this dark cloud a terrible cyclone was about to burst upon defenceless Europe.

Accordingly it was now the hour to return to Greece, there to fulfil his mission and begin his work.

Pythagoras had been kept in Babylon for twelve years. To leave the city, an order from the king of Persia was necessary. Democedes, a compatriot of his and the king's physician, interceded in his

favour and obtained liberty for the philosopher. After an absence of thirty-four years Pythagoras returned to Samos. He found his country crushed and ruined by a satrap of the great king. Schools and temples were closed, poets and savants had fled like a cloud of swallows before Persian caesarism. He had the consolation however, of seeing Hermodamas, his first master, take his last breath, and of meeting Parthenis, his mother, the only one who had never doubted that he would return. For everyone thought that the adventurous son of the jeweller of Samos was dead. Not for a moment had she doubted the oracle of Apollo. Well she divined that beneath the Egyptian priest's white robe, her son was preparing himself for some lofty mission. She knew that there would come forth from the temple of Neith-Isis the beneficent master, the light-bearing prophet, of whom she had dreamed in the sacred wood of Delphi, and whom the hierophant of Adonai had promised her beneath the cedars of Lebanon.

And now a light skiff was bearing away mother and son to a new exile over the azure waves of the Aegean sea. They were fleeing, with all their possessions, from an oppressed and ruined Samos, and were making sail for Greece. Neither the Olympic crowns nor the poet's laurels tempted the son of

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Parthenis. His work was greater and more mysterious; it was to rouse to life the slumbering soul of the gods in the sanctuaries, to restore the temple of Apollo to its former might and prestige, and then to found somewhere a school of science and of life whence should come forth, not politicians and sophists, but men and women initiates, true mothers and pure heroes !

(To be continued.)

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